

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

One Ashburton Place, Room 2133  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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MAURA T. HEALEY  
Governor

TERRENCE M. REIDY  
Secretary

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
Lieutenant Governor

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**State Office of Restorative Justice Subcommittee**

**Date:** February 7, 2023

**Time:** 10:00AM-11:00AM

**Microsoft Teams Virtual Location:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)** [857-327-9245](tel:857-327-9245) **Meeting ID:** 246 619 372 899 **Passcode:** xmYEK7

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Susan Jeghelian at 10:10 am.

		Present	Absent
1	Chair-Susan Jeghelian	X	
2	Scott Taberner	X	
3	Samuel Williams	X	

**EOPSS Staff:** Anjeza Xhemollari

**Public Members:** None

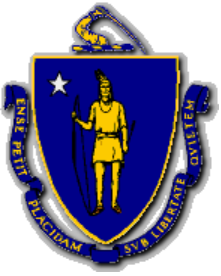
**2. Welcome**

Chairwoman Susan Jeghelian welcomed all Subcommittee members and attendance was taken.

**3. State RJ Office Subcommittee charge, work products and timeline**

Chairwoman Susan Jeghelian created a template of the subcommittee charge, work product, and timeline. Subcommittee members reviewed past annual reports and drafted a timeline of deliverables. Past annual reports discuss the need for a State Office of Restorative Justice.

Chairwoman Susan Jeghelian was able to share her screen and converse with members on the next steps of the subcommittee charge.



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### **2021 RJAC Annual Report** (Conclusion: Looking Forward on page 14)

#### ***Recommending:***

Importantly, the RJAC expects to recommend the establishment and annual funding of a statutory state restorative justice agency/office under the leadership of an Executive Director to serve as a knowledge-based resource and clearinghouse, administrative and funding agency, and mechanism to develop programming and conduct capacity building and research. In the spirit of justice reinvestment, this office and the restorative justice grants it administers would be funded by resources saved from reduced incarceration rates to be invested in justice alternatives, including restorative justice practices. The office would play a pivotal role in securing buy-in by the criminal justice system; identifying and mobilizing community assets; and redressing the structural harms inflicted by the traditional justice system.

### **2022 RJAC Annual Report** (Funding and Looking Forward on page 13)

#### ***Moving Forward Priorities Identified Include:***

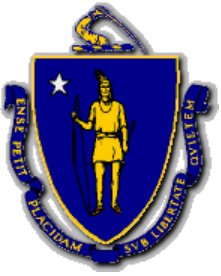
2. Draft enabling statute for state office for RJ and seek adoption through outside section to FY24 or FY25 budget.
3. Prepare FY24 and/or FY25 state budget request for funding, based on the draft budget request generated by RJAC Funding subcommittee in fall of 2019

With that discussion, the subcommittee charge was created to be:

Develop the RJAC's recommendation for the establishment and annual funding of a statutory state restorative justice office to serve as an administrative and funding agency for program development, capacity building, and research on restorative justice in the Commonwealth.

To get there, the Subcommittee will look at the work product design of the Restorative Justice Office and the enabling statute, budget, and funding request. The strategy will be to seek the adoption of the state office of Restorative Justice statute via an outside section and funding request in the FY25 budget.

The Subcommittee elaborated on the need of coordinating best efforts with Roxbury Community College (RCC) in the inventory and tracking of all community-based Restorative Justice



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programs in the Commonwealth. Also, since the judiciary is enhancing the utilization of Restorative Justice in the state court system, efforts should be made for potential cross-system collaborations for partnerships and learning exchanges.

#### **4. Subcommittee meeting schedule**

A decision was made to hold monthly meetings till the end of 2023. The meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

#### **5. Participation of non-members in Subcommittee meetings**

Subcommittee members discussed options when including non-members in subcommittee participation. The Subcommittee acknowledged that public members have important information to share. They want to involve and engage with stakeholders at different stages to solicit input and feedback. It was decided to follow the RJAC rule in public comment during the last 10 minutes of the meeting, and the Chair's discretion to allow non-members to participate in meeting discussion per meeting.

#### **6. Public Comment (10 minutes)**

No public members were present.

#### **7. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting**

N/A

#### **8. Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 10:55 am